

The background of the cover is a photograph of four soldiers in camouflage uniforms and helmets, equipped with rifles, moving across a sandy desert dune. The soldiers are in a tactical formation, with one soldier in the foreground on the right holding a rifle. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.


DV

Desert Voice Magazine

Serving U.S. and Coalition Forces in Kuwait

October 18, 2006

BREAK THROUGH

A close-up photograph of a soldier's helmet, showing the camouflage pattern and various attachments like a night vision device and communication equipment. The helmet is resting on a sandy surface.

Camp Buehring's urban training facility readies deployed Soldiers for door-to-door combat

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On the cover

An infantry team leader with the Ohio National Guard (bottom left) guides his troops through MOUT training at Camp Buehring.

Photo by Sgt. Chris Jones

From the Top

CFC making a difference overseas

Two of the greatest attributes I see in those of you wearing the uniform is an incredible generosity and empathy for those struggling. You display it in your service to our Nation; you also display it when you give of your time and resources to worthy causes.



Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb
Third Army Commanding General

As a young 2nd Lt., I remember going down the pay table in the company day room every month on pay day and giving a few dollars to this fund and a few dollars to another fund and a few more dollars to another cause. At the end of the line, I felt a bit unimpressed with my own contributions. Sometimes I felt as if my monetary contributions were not making much of a difference – I didn't really know where the money was going and I hadn't put any time into the organization besides tossing money into a bucket.

The days of dropping dollars in buckets in the pay line are behind us. Likewise, the days of uncertainty about my contributions are behind me.

Troops and Department of Defense employees have a unique opportunity to make a difference – to really know your donated dollars are going to a cause and organization of your choice.

Through the Combined Federal Campaign – Overseas, we are able to

select which agencies we contribute to and support the charities we believe in. The close to 2,000 organizations must demonstrate that they meet eligibility and public accountability standards. The organizations must also disclose how much of each dollar you donate is spent on administrative and fundraising costs. Through the CFC, you

are able to make an informed decision, not just go down the line and toss a dollar in a bucket.



This is why I feel so strongly about what CFC can do and I personally support it. I support certain organizations because family members have

suffered certain illnesses and I support others organizations because I believe in the cause.

Our Third Army CFC mission for 2006 is to have 100 percent of our troops and DoD civilians contacted, informed and given the opportunity to contribute so you can make a difference for others.

What I ask each of you to do is give to those less fortunate. Your choice, your call. You choose the organization, you choose the amount, you choose how your resources will make a difference. Your voluntary support is appreciated.

PATTON'S OWN!

DV
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Magazine

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Photo Illustration by Spc. Debrah Robertson

KEYS TO **FIRE** PREVENTION

Information provided by


Charles A. Coffman

CSA Fire Inspector, ASG-KU Fire Prevention Office


Fire Prevention Week, which began in 1925, is always observed the week in which the ninth of October falls. It is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. Begun as a commemoration of the anniversary of the Great Chicago fire of 1871, the annual observation keeps the public informed about important fire prevention issues.


Here in Kuwait, we need to treat fire prevention as a year round issue. The ASG Fire Prevention Office is actively engaged in a variety of ways to keep fire prevention in the forefront of everyone's minds.


Some important fire prevention safety tips that everyone should observe as they work and live in Kuwait include:


 Do not overload electrical circuits. Avoid "daisy chaining" surge protectors or extension


cords together in order to gain extra length or additional outlets. Remember high amperage appliances like refrigerators, coffee pots and microwaves need to be plugged directly into a wall outlet.


 Use only UL or CE rated and listed electrical devices to include transformers. Avoid using "hand-me-down" appliances that may have come from questionable sources. Always check for the proper certification label on your electrical device before you use it in work or living areas.


 Discard smoking materials in a proper disposal receptacle. Please refrain from using dumpsters, plastic traffic cones or any other unapproved container as a disposal option.

 Perform a function test of your smoke detectors monthly. Replace batteries whenever you hear a short audible beep every few minutes.

 Take advantage of public education classes offered through the ASG Fire Prevention Office. Extinguisher training and Facility Fire Safety are just some of the classes offered to the base populace.

 Contact the Fire Prevention Office prior to doing any new construction, remodeling, renovation or self-help work in your area. They can help you navigate fire protection requirements for your project beforehand, ensuring that important life and fire safety features are incorporated into your project.

 Remember to get a welding or BBQ permit from the Fire Prevention Office prior to activities.

 Use the Fire Prevention Office as your first resort, not your last. For more information contact us at 430-3154. We are open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Guard Soldiers train for urban c

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Spc. Andrew Trick lines up in a four-man team, 100-plus degree heat bearing down, as he waits outside a room with suspected insurgents inside, gripping his M4 Carbine rifle tight enough to turn his knuckles white.

Inside an air-conditioned theater, his executive officer watches with up to 12 live video images following Trick in the door, down the hall, and into the targeted room. He writes notes, critiques his Soldiers' actions and comes up with a gameplan for the next exercise – like a football coach watching game film.

This isn't the real thing, but

Camp Buehring's Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain facility, commonly known as MOUT, is certainly no game. Trick and Troop C of the 2-107th Cavalry Regiment of the Ohio National Guard leave for Iraq this month; this is among the final training exercises they will complete before leaving.

"Each man has a section of the room they're going to be scanning," said 1st Lt. Austin Dufresne, Troop C executive officer. "First thing we're going to be looking for is that they scan each section of the room. Once they got that, they're checking for any other threats."

The other threats Dufresne refers to – explosives, weapons, even a loud woman screaming Arabic obscenities – are all simulated in the exercise. From the control room, technicians

with the USARCENT's Kuwait Armed Forces Training Center trigger the obstacles like an amusement park haunted house.

"The scenario is set up by the unit commander," said Capt. Kenneth Smith, the operations officer for the Kuwait Armed Forces Training Center.

"The unit commander gives his training guidance, and the [MOUT technicians] run the site to facilitate his training objectives."

The exercise is a part of a required list of training tasks for any unit entering Iraq. Charlie Troop has been given nine days in Kuwait to complete the training tasks before deploying north.

For Troop C, the deployment process was launched three months ago,



Photos by Sgt. Chris Jones

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 107th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio National Guard, practice cordon and search drills at the MOUT facility on Camp Buehring.

combat under watchful eyes

beginning with seven-days-a-week training at Fort Dix, N.J. There, the unit did it all – from familiarization of improvised explosive devices to similar training on clearing a room.

“This is just getting everyone back in the mindset,” said Trick.

Trick had been a senior majoring in construction management at the University of Cincinnati. In Iraq, he will be part of a cavalry unit, sent to Iraq for a scheduled 12-month tour.

The MOUT exercise starts with two practice rooms, where Trick and his team enter a room without any obstacles. For the first two rooms, communication among the team members is stressed. “That’s basically what we’re trying to emphasize here: teamwork,” said 2nd Lt. Mark Federle.

When they move to the third and fourth rooms, their leaders’ interests start to rise. With one of his senior noncommissioned officers, Master Sgt. Mark Smith, Dufresne marks off what the patrol is doing correctly and incorrectly.

“See that right there, sir,” Smith says as he pops out of his chair and approaches the television screen. “They’re a little too close to the wall. You’ll want to have a little bit of a standoff.”

Comments are aggregated in Dufresne’s green notebook. As soon as the patrol is completed, their corrections are given to the team leader. Trick and his teammates passed the test, but with overhead cameras covering their every step, the MOUT facility and Dufresne have given them some homework.

(Top right) Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 107th Cavalry Regiment, enter a room during MOUT training at Camp Buehring.

(Bottom right) Soldiers prepare to enter a room, near the broken glass of a destroyed vehicle, during MOUT training.



SERVICEMEMBERS 10-MILER 6,000 MILE



Runners wait in an early-morning line to register for the Army Ten-Miler race at Camp Buehring. The race started at 5 a.m. on October 8.



Photos by Spc. Debrah Robertson

A servicemember runs the Army 10-miler at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, as the sun rises over the desert, immediately raising the temperature for the runners.



A Soldier stretches midway through the

RUN THE ARMY S FROM START LINE



Army 10-miler at Camp Buehring



A female servicemember runs toward the middle of the Army 10-miler at Camp Buehring.

Results of the Camp Buehring Army 10-miler

Sunday October 8, 2006

Male:

Overall winner: Army CW4 Sean O'Donnell of Camp Arifjan -- 53:59

29 and under: Army PFC Kyle Caldwell of Camp Navistar -- 74:41

30-39: Army MSG Tyus of Camp Arifjan -- 76:57

40-49: LTC Michael Rose -- 75:34

50+: Name unavailable --77:45

Female:

Overall winner: CW3 Rachel Rosenbaum of Camp Arifjan -- 79:45

20-29: CPT Sharon Kircher of Camp Arifjan -- 89:45

30-39: Name unavailable -- 90:15

40-49: Julia Rae -- 90:50

50+: CW2 Nancy Sigmon of Camp Virginia -- 128:05

The Army's best...

Best Warriors announced at AUSA Convention

**By Sgt. Danny McCormick &
Staff Sgt. Reeba Critser
Third Army Public Affairs Office**

A year comprised of oral board appearances and events, culminating with the Best Warrior competition at Fort Lee, Va., Oct. 2 to 6, has earned two Soldiers bragging rights for the next year as the U.S. Army Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, respectively.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander, a healthcare specialist with U.S. Army Central's Area Support Group at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, was selected as the 2006 Department of Army Noncommissioned

Officer of the Year. Alexander, a native of Upper Darby, Penn., was selected out of 10 NCOs in the competition.

Spc. John Emmett, an Army Reserve Soldier assigned as a signal support systems specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 21st Theater Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany, was selected as the 2006 Department of Army Soldier of the Year. Emmett, a native of Greenwood, Ind., was selected out of 10 junior enlisted Soldiers in the competition.

The Best Warrior competition tested the 20 candidates on physical strength, intellectual stamina,

basic combat and first aid skills. The events included the physical fitness test, urban land navigation, weapons qualifications, urban warfare simulations, an oral board, a written exam and other combat-related drills.

Emmett said of the events, you can't select a 'Best Warrior' without doing the competition and these tasks."

When asked what he thought of the competition and who would be the winner, Alexander said that typically combat arms Soldiers do better in these competitions, "but we all have our strengths and weaknesses."

The two Soldiers received their awards at the Sergeant Major of the



Photo by Third Army Public Affairs

(From left) Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston, Spc. John Emmett, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Alexander and Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody pose for pictures at the Sergeant Major of the Army luncheon Oct. 9, 2006, after announcing the 2006 Department of the Army Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year winners.

Army luncheon Oct. 9, hosted by Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston.

Preston asked all of the Soldiers in the competition what they thought of it and how it could be made better. He also wanted to know if the competition was fair to all of the participants, some of whom have never seen combat.

Alexander said, "This competition encompasses exactly what our Soldiers are doing on a daily basis in combat. How can you not hold a competition to that level?"

The participants face a minimum of four lesser competitions before they reach the Best Warrior level. This means that they have won competitions at company, brigade, battalion and



Photo by Sgt. Danny McCormick

(From left) Upper Darby, Penn. native Sgt. 1st Class Jason H. Alexander, U.S. Army Central's Area Support Group, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; Fremont, Calif. native, Sgt. Dustin W. Jorrick, 52nd Medical Battalion, Seoul, Korea; and Anchorage, Alaska, native Staff Sgt. Stacy-Lyn De La Hoz start the daytime portion of the land navigation course test during the 5th annual NCO/Soldier of the Year "Best Warrior" competition.

division levels prior to their appearance here.

But that doesn't mean they are arrogant of their abilities.

Emmett was very modest about his win, "Each of those Soldiers [who lost] are better than me. All of us came here to win. They deserve respect."

"The events are geared toward the Warrior Ethos – IEDs, evacuating casualties, room clearing. These are things you need to know from the bottom to top for survival in the battlefield. These are the things we need to be teaching our

Soldiers," Alexander said.

Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody, a guest at the event, said to the two, "Soldiers want to be with you. They want to trust you, they want to be led by you. You're representing over 1 million in our Army today. We're all proud of you."

Emmett said, "The Best Warrior competition is made to be contemporary and modern. Even though I'm an Army Reserve Soldier, we are an Army of One. We are all an essential part of this mission."

"We're so proud of him. He's setting the example for his family and community," said Karen Emmett, Emmett's mother.

Scott Emmett, his father, said simply, "Words fail me."

Alexander and Emmett were also presented with various honors from military associations and Army retirees. The two will be featured at upcoming Army events.



Sgt. 1st Class Jason H. Alexander, 2006 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, conducts advanced rifle marksmanship drills during the pre-combat inspections portion of the Best Warrior Competition Oct. 3. He represented U.S. Army Central.

Photo by Jorge Gomez

Soldiers introduced to Iraq dangers before being introduced to Iraq

Sgt. Thomas L. Day
Desert Voice Staff Writer

Three times a day, every day of the week, incoming Soldiers file into a tent at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, to hear about threats they will face the moment they hit the Iraqi border.

With slide shows and graphic videos, they learn about improvised explosive devices, fratricide, rules of engagement and what they can do to protect themselves.

The instruction comes from Task Force Troy, created to counteract dangers unique to Afghanistan and Iraq. The training is mandated by USARCENT for all Soldiers entering Iraq. “[ARCENT] supports the training; Task Force Troy actually conducts the training,” said Capt. Kenneth Smith, the operations officer for USARCENT’s Kuwait

Armed Forces Training Center.

The Buehring team is the lone Kuwait detachment of Task Force Troy, with seven more teams located in Iraq and Afghanistan. It’s an effort that extends well beyond the U.S. Army, starting with the commander, an Australian Navy lieutenant commander operating in Baghdad.

“It brings together all of the agencies that work in that fight, and brings them under one head, so we can all help each other,” said Cpl. Michael Ruf, an instructor with Task Force Troy. “It was established to provide the Soldiers with one entity that they could go to for information.”

Ruf spent the first half of his deployment in Baghdad, instructing second and third level information sessions that delve into classified countermeasures against roadside

bombs. “Before we go out, we tailor it to each unit and what the threats they’ll find in their mission.”

His teammate, British army Staff Sgt. Sean Pawlan-Gardner, carries the portion of the instruction that covers fratricide incidents.

“Within the Coalition forces, it’s just misidentifying one another,” explains Pawlan-Gardner, who fought with the British commandos in the 2003 invasion of Iraq. “It’s all preventable.”

With troops, uniforms and equipment that can seem indistinguishable from insurgents, Pawlan-Gardner dissects each garb, tank, weapon and vehicle from both sides. Iraqi police, for example, have been the subject of a number of fratricide incidents, according to the Wales native, because of the black baklava they often wear to

avoid personal identification.

“You see a baklava, you think he’s a terrorist,” Pawlan-Gardner told an audience of newly-arrived Soldiers, calling to attention other details of the Iraqi police uniform.

As the training concluded, the Soldiers departed into the early afternoon sun.

Iraq was only a few days away.



Photo by Sgt. Chris Jones

Soldiers at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, who had recently arrived in theater, watch a video of threats that will surround them when they arrive in Iraq about a week later.

The websites listed below are dedicated to deployed servicemembers. You will find links to anything from free phone cards to care packages to airline discounts.

Web Alert

<http://www.operationhomelink.org> -- Free computers for spouses or parents of deployed Soldiers in ranks E1 - E5.
<https://www.operationuplink.org> -- Free phone cards.
<http://anysoldier.com/ForSoldiersOnly.cfm> -- To sign up for sponsoring Soldier care packages for theater.
<http://www.operationshobox.com> -- free shoebox care package.
<http://www.treatthetroops.org> -- free cookies.
<http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html> -- lowest airfare available.
<http://bluestarmoms.org/care.html> -- free care packages.
<http://www.heromiles.org> -- free air travel for emergency leave, and for the family members of injured Soldiers to travel to medical facilities.
<http://www.bluestarmothers.org/airlinespecials.php> -- Airline discounts for rest and recuperation.
<http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/forum/index.php> -- free books, DVDs, CDs.
<http://www.militarymoms.net/sot.html> -- free care packages (your family member signs up to have sent to you).
<http://operationmilitarypride.org/smsignup.html> -- free care packages.
http://www.soldiersangels.org/heroes/submit_a_soldier.php -- get adopted to receive stuff.
<https://www.treatsfortroops.com/registration/index.php> -- free gifts and care packages.
http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Nov2004/n11232004_2004112312 -- free shipping/packing materials for shipping to troops.

Just One Question...

Do you have a pet back home? If so, what do you miss about him?



"Taking him on walks when I get home from work. His name is Jack, and he is a 3 1/2 year old terrier mix."

1st Lt. Tara Larkin
Logistics officer
Task Force Lightning Service
Laplata, MD



"Seeing my cats when I wake up and playing with them."

Sgt. Ian Nagy
Wheeled vehicle mechanic
1st BCT, 1st AD
Sumner, Washington



"I miss my kitties snuggling in bed with me."

1st Lt. Ingrid Yockel
Personnel officer
556th Personnel Services Bn.
Naples, FL



"We've got a shi tzu. I miss him biting me on the toes every morning."

DoD Civilian Ed Morris
Chief, Forward Repair Activity
Army Materiel Command
Lineville, AL



"I have a cocker spaniel named Bailey. He is the perfect house dog. He is part of the family."

Spc. Brandon Leonard
Infantryman
1st Bn., 505th Parachute Inf. Regt.
Pensacola, FL



Hometown Hero

**DoD Civilian
Tim Peterman**

Peterman's job in Kuwait involves repairing broken military equipment and building training machines for deployed servicemembers

Talks about what he misses about his hometown, Pineville, La.

"It's just a small rural community. You could hunt in my backyard. You can't even see my house from the road, but my wife's happy because we're only two miles from Wal-Mart."



ARMY STRONG

The new **Army Strong** campaign captures the unique physical, mental and emotional character of the Soldier.

Army Strong stands for a big idea. It speaks to the truth about the U.S. Army - that Soldiers develop mental, emotional and physical strength forged through shared values, teamwork, experience and training...that by making the decision to join the Army, an individual is choosing to recognize potential strength within him or herself and develop it further ... that an individual Soldier is choosing to take charge of his or her future and career ... that Soldiers actively choose to make a difference in their lives, their families, their communities and for their nation.

The Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey announced the effort Oct. 9 at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. The ad campaign has developed a powerful new way to tell the Army story and created an **Army Strong** national advertising campaign that will launch Nov. 9, 2006. The new advertising campaign

will initially involve television, radio and online spots, as well as a vigorous online presence, including an updated goarmy.com Website. Print ads are scheduled to begin running in January 2007.

Our Soldiers have answered the “Call to Duty” to preserve peace and freedom for more than 230 years. Their ability to fulfill this vital role for the nation depends on each of you, and on the work you do every day. It also depends on our ability to fill the Army’s ranks in the future with committed and capable volunteer Soldiers.

You are the strength of the Army. You are the message embodied in this campaign. Every time you go into your community, when you walk through an airport or any other activity in your daily life, you are the most effective demonstration of **Army Strong**.

The Army needs your support of this important campaign. You represent Army Strong. The Army is asking you to encourage others to visit www.goarmy.com to learn more about the U.S. Army.

